(Rs. in Crore)

Category	Earning 2004-05	Earning 2005-06 (Appox)	Variation in amount	%age growth	%age of Indian Railways Earnings
Passenger	300.20	333.04	32.84	10.94	2.21
Other Coaching	16.47	25.28	8.81	53.49	2.22
Goods	2970.22	3569.23	599.01	20.17	9.80
Sundry	25.33	19.73	-5.60	-22.11	1.10
TOTAL	3312.32	3947.28	635.06	19.17	7.26

Wheat import

*413. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to import another 1.5 million to 2 million tonnes of wheat through the State Trading Corporation (STC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to import of 5.00 lakh tonnes of wheat approved by the Government in February, 2006, import of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat has also been allowed by the Government, through the State Trading Corporation (STC), for which tender has been floated by the STC on 8-5-2006.

The decision to import 30 lakh tonnes was taken in view of the following:

(i) Stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1-4-2006 was 20 lakh tonnes which was 20 lakh tonnes lower than the buffer norm of 40 lakh tonnes for 1st April;

(ii) Need to build up adequate buffer stock to meet the commitment under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Welfare Schemes;

(iii) Lower than normal production of wheat;

(iv) Low level of procurement of wheat in the Central Pool.

Electrification of railway tracks

*414. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to the optimum; and

(c) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have been recommended from Rajasthan and what is the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justifies as operational necessity. The criterion/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:

(i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.

(ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.

(iii) While proposing electrification of a route, the rail network in the region in totality should be considered to include, if necessary, short route lengths, which would otherwise remain non-electrified and reduce operational flexibility.

(c) Following three proposals for electrification of railway track have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan during last two years. The status are as under: